GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1805
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
SMALL AGRICULTURAL WATERSHEDS
ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN;RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the small agricultural watersheds are not being properly utilized in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith reasons therefor;

(c) the efforts made by the Government for the purpose and optimum utilization of the small agricultural watersheds; and

(d) the degree of success achieved by the Government following these efforts?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (c): The Government of India have accorded high priority to the development ofwatershed area through integrated watershed approach wherein watershed community plays a decisive role in planning, implementation and monitoring of watersheds.

Small watersheds (about 500 ha.) are being treated under the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA) of Ministry of Agriculture and Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme of Department of Land Resources (DOLR).

(d): Evaluation Studies conducted by the MoA through different agencies have indicated thatthese programmes have, in general, resulted in increase in cropping intensity, changes in cropping pattern, and increase in ground water recharge.